



INDIANA CONSERVATION CHOICES

Forests

Conservation practices that help improve soil health, reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and provide other natural resource benefits.

INDIANA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

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Are you interested in getting the most out of your woods? Whether you are interested in wood products, wildlife, recreation, or scenery, proper management of your forest will help you achieve your goals and interests. According to an old proverb, "The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The next best time is today." If you haven't been managing your woods, consider starting today.

Forest management is providing your forest with the care it needs to remain healthy and provide the benefits you desire. Forest management considers all parts of the forest community: soil, water, plants, animals, birds, and air, as well as the trees. The goal of forest management is a healthy, sustainable forest that accommodates any number of uses.

The first step is to get a Forest Management Plan to develop a series of suggested activities. In essence, your plan is a "road map" to guide you from where you and your land are to where you want to be. It can enable you to make educated decisions for your forest, keep you from making costly management mistakes, and possibly help qualify you for financial programs.

This factsheet lists common conservation practices for forests. To learn more about managing your land, visit your local NRCS office. We can help you make the right choices to protect and improve your land and other resources.



		Description	Benefits
Forest Management Plan		A site-specific plan which identifies and addresses woodland objectives and concerns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Provides suggested activities to meet your forest objectives » Guides long-term sustainable woodlands » Plans out practices for program assistance
Forest Stand Improvement		Thinning trees and understory vegetation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Achieves desired crop tree stocking & density » Improves tree growth and health » Initiates natural establishment of new trees » Reduces potential damage from pests » Improves aesthetics, recreation, & wildlife habitat
Invasive Species Control		Often called brush management, this practice removes troublesome invasive and noxious plants species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Removes competition so beneficial vegetation can re-establish. » Creates desired plant community » Improves wildlife habitat » Enhances tree regeneration » Increases tree growth and health
Wildlife Habitat		Providing adequate food and cover for wildlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Improves habitat by increasing fruit and mast(nuts), improving forest structure, and increasing forest diversity for forest wildlife including ruffed grouse, deer, wild turkey, woodcock, songbirds, etc.
Tree Planting		Planting trees where needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Provides wildlife habitat » Protects soil from eroding » Improves air and water quality » Sequesters carbon » Enhances the aesthetics of an area
Erosion Control		Protecting the soil with vegetation or structural practices to keep soil in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Prevents sediment from entering into streams » Provides woodland safety » Prevents and fixes ruts/erosion on forest trails and landings
Livestock Control		Excluding livestock from the woods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Prevents livestock from compacting soil, damaging tree roots and bark, destroying food and nesting habitat for wildlife » Protects seedlings from being trampled, uprooted or eaten

For more information visit: www.in.nrcs.usda.gov